



## CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

### Roadmap for Development

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#### Background

The City of Chula Vista has long understood the threats of climate change to its community and has established itself as a leader amongst municipalities in planning to reduce or “mitigate” citywide greenhouse gas emissions. However, despite efforts both locally and globally to mitigate emissions, some level of climate change will still occur and have noticeable impacts on the San Diego region. In order to manage these likely impacts from climate change and to build on its past leadership, the City of Chula Vista will assess the community’s vulnerabilities to these climate impacts and develop strategies to “adapt” the community to the projected changes. These strategies will be formalized in a *Climate Change Adaptation Strategy* and will be developed under a framework based on the City’s experience with greenhouse gas emissions mitigation planning and guidance from ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability. This planning will also coincide with the City’s participation in the International Conference on Climate Adaptation held in Seville, Spain in May 2009 and the resulting adaptation planning priorities (known as the “Seville Declaration”) agreed upon by various California and Spanish government entities.

#### Expected Outcomes of Climate Adaptation Planning

The City of Chula Vista will begin a climate adaptation planning process to achieve the following:

- (a) Through a community-based process, develop a local *Climate Change Adaptation Strategy*, which would be incorporated into the City’s current Climate Action Plan, for City Council review and consideration by the end of 2010 which addresses the following sectors projected to be adversely affected by climate change:
  - Water Management
  - Energy Management
  - Infrastructure & Resources
  - Public Health
  - Wildfires
  - Ecosystems & Biodiversity
  - Business & Economy
- (b) Continue its collaboration with other Seville Declaration participants by leading an international panel focused on adaptation planning for nature conservation and biodiversity preservation which will complement additional panels being chaired by other signatory governments.

- (c) In addition to participating in annual conferences with Seville Declaration signatories, the City will host an international conference in November 2011 to coordinate and optimize development of individual government adaptation strategies.

### **Community-Based Planning Process**

To develop a local *Climate Change Adaptation Strategy* which would be incorporated into the City's current Climate Action Plan, the City will utilize a community-based process which was successful in the past creating the City's original Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) Reduction Plan and more recent seven climate protection measures. Therefore, staff proposes using the City's Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) which is comprised of Chula Vista residents, businesses, and community group representatives to assist in developing climate adaptation strategies suitable for Chula Vista. Specifically, the group will be tasked with assessing and selecting a list of recommended adaptation policies and programs. These recommendations will be presented to the City Council for formal review and consideration. Based upon City Council's direction, these recommendations would be further developed into more comprehensive plans by staff, if necessary.

Because of the broad scope of potential adaptation strategies and to ensure equitable and diverse viewpoints, staff proposes augmenting the current Climate Change Working Group with the following sector representatives:

<b><i>Focus Area</i></b>	<b><i>Possible Representative(s)</i></b>
Water Management	Local water district official
Energy Management	Energy industry professional Renewable energy consultant Electrical workers association
Infrastructure & Resources	Engineering firm Building industry representative Coastal resource manager Port representative
Public Health	Public health provider Senior issues/care-giver Transportation/Land-use professional
Wildfires	Emergency service provider Fire-services Property-owner along wildland/urban interface
Ecosystems & Biodiversity	Conservation professional Nature Center staff Local environmental group
Business & Economy	Small & Large Businesses Southwestern College representative

Potential new members would be vetted through the Resource Conservation Commission and the City Council's ICLEI representatives. The Climate Change Working Group will be supported by Ex Officio members who may include representatives from ICLEI, San Diego Gas & Electric,

California Center for Sustainable Energy, Public Safety Departments, Public Works Department, and Development Services Department. The San Diego Foundation will also play a key role on the Ex Officio team due to its current regional work related to climate change impacts. Their “Focus 2050” study compiled and analyzed predicted climate changes to the San Diego region with the assistance of local universities and public agencies. Conservation and Environmental Services Department staff will provide overall administrative support to the Climate Change Working Group and the climate adaptation planning process. A professional facilitator may also be used to help organize and conduct the meetings. Throughout the development of these adaptation strategies, special emphasis will be placed on ensuring an open and transparent process and providing the public with opportunities for input and feedback. It is anticipated that the Climate Change Working Group will host several large public forums in addition to their normal publicly-noticed meetings to help the community understand the inherent risks to Chula Vista from climate change and opportunities to manage the risk. All summary materials will be provided in both Spanish and English and distributed both on-line and in the community.

Climate Change Working Group members will be required to commit to bi-monthly meetings, to work in a cooperative way with fellow group members, and be able to dedicate time to prepare and research (if necessary) for CCWG meetings. All participants will also have to understand the environmental, social, and economic context of their task. The Climate Change Working Group will be asked to use certain guiding principles to evaluate and prioritize possible adaptation options:

- 1) Seek out the best available science to understand local climate change impacts and their relative risks;
- 2) Give priority to policies which can build on existing work rather than policies which require new sources of funding or staffing;
- 3) Ensure that the legitimate interests of all City stakeholders are considered in evaluating options;
- 4) Develop policies flexible enough for future incorporation of new science or improved modeling, but defined well enough for staff to implement;
- 5) Ensure that adaptation strategies complement climate protection measures already in place in Chula Vista;
- 6) Consider strategies to adapt to both short- and long-term impacts from climate change, but only in areas where the group decides there is enough evidence to support the work;
- 7) Prioritize strategies in accordance with the degree of risk that different climate impacts pose to Chula Vista, its residents, and businesses;
- 8) Recommend adaptation strategies which address the most immediate risk in the most financially feasible way (i.e. require the least General Fund support);
- 9) The strategies chosen should not cause a significant adverse economic and/or environmental impact to the community
- 10) Reach consensus on a preferred list of final recommended adaptation strategies which best meets all City stakeholders’ needs

### **International Panel on Climate Adaptation & Nature Conservation**

As part of the Seville Declaration’s implementation, the City will lead an international panel tasked with addressing potential climate change impacts to ecosystems (especially wetlands) and

formulating local adaptation options to minimize the associated risk. The panel will be one of six committees which are being chaired by various Seville Declaration signatories. The panel will be designed so that other Seville Declaration governments can benefit from the resulting resources and recommendations. The process will likely involve few actual meetings, but rather depend on digital sharing of information and ideas due to participants' wide geographic dispersion. However, the panel may include sponsorship of a local symposium on the latest scientific research related to the topic. Further design of the panel and its process will occur during the next meeting of Seville Declaration governments in November 2009. At this meeting, the declaration of cooperation between the Andalusian and Californian governments will be finalized and formally signed.

### **Chula Vista Conference on Climate Adaptation Strategies**

The culmination of the City's climate adaptation planning efforts will be the hosting of an international conference in Chula Vista in November 2011. Conference invitees will include the Seville Declaration signatories and other public agencies and stakeholder groups which are active in pursuing climate adaptation frameworks. The conference will also offer the City an opportunity to showcase its *Climate Change Adaptation Strategy* and the "lessons learned" during its development and initial implementation.

### **Climate Adaptation Planning Milestones**

The following table provides a breakdown of the proposed process and timeline for completing an adaptation plan:

<b>TASK</b>		<b>TIMELINE</b>
<b>Milestone #1 - Initiate Climate Adaptation Efforts</b>		
A.	Council approval to develop a <i>Climate Change Adaptation Strategy</i> in concert with other Seville Declaration signatories	September 2009
B.	Expand Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) to include broader representation & technical expertise	October – November 2009
C.	Attend conference in Andalusia, Spain to finalize participation in the Seville Declaration	November 2009
<b>Milestone #2 – Develop Initial Climate Adaptation Recommendations</b>		
A.	Organize approximately 8 publicly-noticed CCWG meetings and 2 public forums to review and prioritize adaptation options	November 2009 – September 2010
B.	Lead an international panel to develop recommendations on minimizing climate risks to nature conservation and biodiversity preservation	January – October 2010

<b>Milestone #3 – Finalize Climate Adaptation Strategies</b>		
A.	Present CCWG recommendations to City Council ICLEI/Climate Change Subcommittee & full City Council for review and consideration	October 2010
B.	Integrate Council-approved CCWG recommendations into a comprehensive <i>Climate Change Adaptation Strategy</i>	October 2010 – January 2011
C.	Present <i>Climate Change Adaptation Strategy</i> to City Council ICLEI/Climate Change Subcommittee & full City Council for review and consideration	February 2011
<b>Milestone #4 – Implement Climate Adaptation Strategies</b>		
A.	Begin implementation of Council-approved <i>Climate Change Adaptation Strategy</i> and track performance	March 2011 (Ongoing)
B.	Host an international climate adaptation planning conference in Chula Vista to exchange information with Seville Declaration signatories and other interested parties	November 2011

### **Budget Summary**

The proposed climate adaptation planning process is designed to minimize costs. Staff will initially rely on external funding sources (such as grants and donations) to finance the planning process. Implementation of a Council-approved *Climate Change Adaptation Strategy* would require more long-term, consistent funding sources such as Energy Franchise Fees or Local Fee Authority which are currently being pursued through the 7 climate protection measures' implementation. The proposed budget is presented below:

<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>	<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>
Administer CCWG meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meeting supplies &amp; printing</li> <li>- Trained Facilitator for 8 - 10 meetings</li> </ul>	\$1,000
Organize 2 public forums on CCWG efforts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Printing of information packets</li> <li>- Public forum promotion</li> </ul>	\$500
Attend two Seville Declaration conferences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conference registration</li> <li>- Airfare, lodging &amp; meals</li> </ul>	\$3,000
Host adaptation conference in Chula Vista as part of Seville Declaration process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meeting supplies &amp; printing</li> <li>- Conference space fees</li> <li>- Conference promotion</li> </ul>	\$10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$14,500</b>